

1877 - 1927

The Lutheran Concordia Church

Rochester, New York



FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

September Twenty-fifth

1927

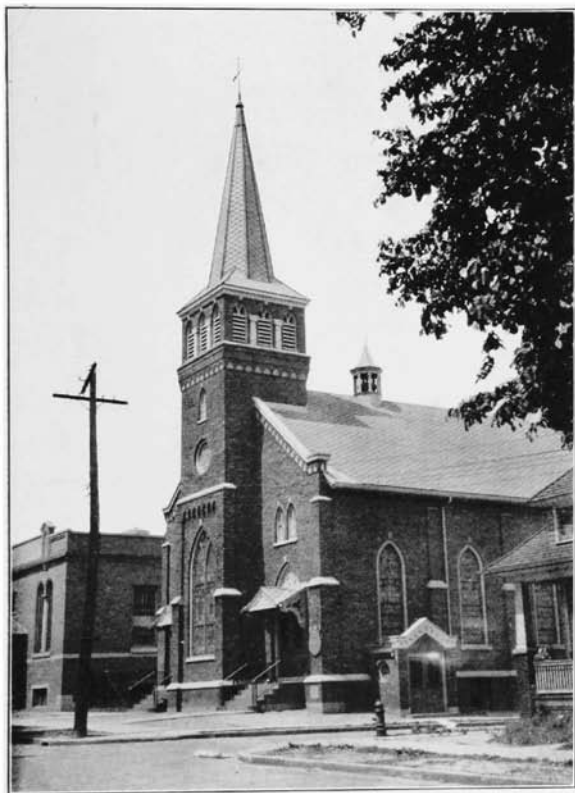
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OUR PASTOR

Greetings

 **Q**N the occasion of the Fifty-year Jubilee of the Lutheran Concordia Church we extend to our members and friends a most cordial greeting in the name of our Lord to join with us in prayer, praise and thanksgiving for God's loving kindness and tender mercies during these Fifty years of our existence.

The Church Council

Historical Sketch.



THE Lutheran Concordia Church was organized by the late Rev. Ernst Heydler on the 20th day of September, 1877 at his home on St. Joseph St., between Hoeltzer St. and Sullivan St. with about 60 male members. The first services were held in the so-called Goers Hall, opposite Helena St. on Hudson Ave. from the 23rd day of Sept., 1877 until the first of April, 1878. A German-English Parochial school was begun at No. 51 Concord Ave. in 1878. The original name of the congregation was: Die Norddeutsche Ev. Luth. Concordia Gemeinde, which was subsequently changed May 17th, 1919 to its present name, the Lutheran Concordia Church of Rochester, N. Y.

The first Church Council consisted of the pastor, Rev. Ernst Heydler, the Elders: Bros. John Roggman and Fr. Desens, the Deacons: Bros. Carl Maas, John Knut, Gustave Dumrese, Christ Peters, August Weichbrodt and John Frank. The Trustees: Bros. E. Ruscher, John Welner, John Bauch, H. Bauman, Fr. Hamman and Louis Schmitt. These brethren all have entered into their heavenly home, one excepted. Brother John Welner was the first Secretary of the congregation and Brother John Bauch its first treasurer. Rev. E. Heydler died September 26th, 1882 and was buried by Rev. C. N. Conrad in Mt. Hope Cemetery, Rochester, N. Y.

January 1st, 1877 the congregation resolved to purchase our present location for \$600.00 at Helena and Putnam Sts. On the 3rd day of March, 1879 it was resolved to organize a church choir, our parochial school children were to serve in that capacity. In 1879 our schoolhouse was built and additions to the same later on. Concordia Parish Hall now stands where the schoolhouse was formerly located. The newly organized congregation had its many obstacles and severe difficulties within and without. But our energetic and devout German fathers were determined to have a Lutheran house of God. This determination and fixedness of purpose was always blessed by Providence.

The greatest difficulties most always arose in our school. We had some god-fearing teachers, yet a goodly number of them did not live circumspectly. Rev. Heydler had a very heavy cross to bear, his wife and five children suffered intensely. He was not a physically strong man, he was an eloquent and learned divine leading his little flock to the cross of our Saviour. At the time of his death he was 47 years, 6 months and 3 days old. His wife, after his untimely death, became insane and is at this writing still in the State Hospital, Rochester, N. Y. After the death of Rev. Heydler your present minister was unanimously elected to be his successor on the 24th day of July, 1882. Seven different congregations were organized by him and various societies in the congregation. One of these societies is still in existence, the Young Men's Society was organized in 1883. On the 22nd day of July, 1883 our basement of the church was dedicated for religious purposes. In 1884 our church edifice was enlarged and subsequently a church tower was built and a church bell purchased. In August, 1898 our present organ was bought of Mr. John Brown, Wilmington, Del. On the 9th day of July, 1900 our congregation resolved for reasons well known to sever its connection with the New York Ministerium and in 1920 the present pastor did likewise. The congregation and its pastor belong at the present time to no synodical body but may do so in the future. In 1907 the English service was introduced. The catechetical instruction, the Sabbath-school and discussions are now mostly English. July the 28th, 1912 the pastor celebrated his 30th anniversary. 1918 our present beautiful church building was dedicated and the cornerstone relaid by the pastor. 1924 Concordia Parish Hall was built for religious, educational and social purposes at a cost of more than \$80,000.00. Our Sabbath-school 50 years ago had 2 teachers, viz. Rev. E. Heydler and Miss Sophie Bantleon, with 15 boy and 34 girls. The first offering was 43 cts. Concordia Church has at present about 600 families and more than 1800 pledge-holders.

It is one of the largest, if not the largest of the Lutheran churches in Rochester and vicinity. Concordia Church was incorporated February 13th, 1878 and again reincorporated under

the Religious Incorporation Laws 1911, Article 6, §116. During the 50 years of its existence over 12 societies were organized. They all flourished for a long time, but the language question was in a way also responsible for their dissolution.

The seats of the church are free and the ladies of the congregation having the age of 21 are permitted to vote.

The following are the present members of our Church Council: Rev. Carl N. Conrad, Ph.D., S.T.D., chairman, Wm. A. Griep, Charles Neuwirth and Edward Muisus, Elders. Otto Scheick, Charles Strauchen, Wm. J. Mall, Arthur Demler, Frank Manske, George Vance, Ehrhardt Goedt, Wm. Neitzel and Gustave Heinrich, Deacons. The elders and the deacons are also the trustees of the congregation with the pastor as its president under the Religious Incorporation Laws of 1911.

The following societies are in existence at the present time and are doing much good for the congregation: The Concordia Young Men's Society was organized by the pastor Rev. Dr. C. N. Conrad on the 20th day of April, 1883. Seven young men constituted its first membership, four of which are still members of the society. The society, which is a mutual aid society, has at the present time 260 members and one honorary member, Rev. Dr. C. N. Conrad, its organizer. The total resources of the society are \$12,510.00. The present officers are: President, Frank W. Manske; Vice-President, Edward Bess; Rec. Sec., William J. Mall; Finan. Sec., William Tomaschke; Treasurer, William A. Schroeder; Librarian, William Gliewe; Finance Com., L. J. Weber, Frank Schultz and Carl Tomaschke. The society is one of the strongest of the Lutheran Churches in Rochester and vicinity and is the greatest blessing to Concordia Church.

On the 16th day of August, 1882, Rev. C. N. Conrad organized the Concordia Sunday School Teachers' Society. Tuesday, September 5th, 1882 our present Constitution of the society was unanimously adopted. January the 5th, 1883 the following officers were elected: Supt., Rev. C. N. Conrad; Vice-Supt., C. F. Frank; Sec., William Ahrens; Treas., Henry Baumann; Collector, Wm. Kelpin; Librarian, Wm. Schoenfeldt; Assistant Librarian, Fred

Demler. The Sunday School sessions were all conducted in the German language. In the year 1919 English was introduced in all the departments of the Sabbath School by a resolution of the congregation, the same year, 1919, English Bible Histories, English Song books etc. were purchased. In June, 1920 Honor Certificates were awarded for the first time to confirmed members who had attended the Sunday School for three consecutive years after confirmation. The Sunday School has a cradle roll, and is divided into four main divisions: The Infant Department, the Main School, the Bible Class and the Mission Class. Since the organization the Sunday School has been blessed with many beneficial changes. Our treasury has grown far beyond our financial expectations, having a surplus of \$2,162.15. With grateful hearts towards the head of the church, our blessed Saviour, we also thank our many staunch and steady Sunday School workers. The following are our present Sunday School officers: Rev. Dr. C. N. Conrad, Supt.; William A. Griep, Vice-Supt.; Miss Rose Ahrens, Sec.; Henry Unterborn, Treas.; Otto Scheick, Librarian; Miss Alice Gears, Sec. Cradle Roll; Finance Com., Miss Laura Weber, Miss Loretta Saucke, Miss Elsie Kranzush.

September the 19th, 1917 the ladies of our congregation organized the Dorcas Society, (Schwestern Verein). Its grand object is to further the welfare of Concordia Church also in a financial way. The first officers were the following: President, Mrs. Catharine H. Conrad; Vice-Pres., Mrs. Eleanor Nowack; Sec., Mrs. Anna Kimmel; Treas., Mrs. Amelia Bunde. The society has a membership of 135 members. The receipts during 1926 were \$2,500.00. To raise funds for the church a pancake supper realized about \$150.00. \$50.00 was later contributed, making \$200.00 toward the new hardwood floor in the renovated church. When our new Parish Hall was built much money was invested. Unassisted this beautiful society has furnished silver, china, cooking utensils and complete furnishings for the kitchen and small banquet room and also furnished the ladies' parlor in our hall and many other necessities.

The society is about, at this writing, to refurnish the Church Council room in our hall. All ladies of Concordia may become

members. Dues are 10 cts. each month. Many sociable afternoons and evenings are enjoyed throughout the year. The present officers are: Permanent President, Mrs. Catharine H. Conrad; Vice-Pres., Mrs. Eleanor Nowack; Sec., Mrs. Minnie Manswe; Treas., Mrs. Amelia Bunde.

The Girls' Friendly Society with its 24 members was organized under the influence of Mrs. T. Twietmeyer and others June 21, 1921. Its grand object is to do mission work of all kinds. To this purpose it helps the congregation. It visits the sick, the poor, the needy in our church. Several times during the year the members visit the German Home for the Aged, entertain there in various ways and also with their beautiful singing. They send clothing to Orphan Homes especially to St. John's Orphan Asylum at Buffalo, N. Y. and Sulphur Springs, N. Y. They are interested in our Kurdistan mission. This small society ought to be increased a hundredfold. The spirit of Christ is in this society,—small in number yet a pillar of well doing in Concordia Church. Our Lord bless them!

The Lutheran Concordia Brotherhood was organized January 16, 1922. Its main object is: To further the welfare of our church among the boys and young men of our congregation. It has established an Athletic Division. Much praise must be given to Bros. Wm. Mall, Frank Manske, Theo. Twietmeyer and Adolph Pohl and others. Boys 12 years old are cordially invited. They must be members of our Sunday School and show good attendance. Should be encouraged to take a pledge to support the church. They meet every Friday night from 7:30 to 8:45 P. M. Their programs consist of various Christian plays, athletics, sport group play, bean suppers etc. These boys will mean much for the future Concordia Church. No finer boys can be found anywhere. They use our hall for most sensible purposes except basket ball, which our architect informs us is not built for and would be if used for that purpose, disastrous. The present leaders are: Gordon Meyer, Ray Schulz, Arthur Pohl and Theo. Twietmeyer.

Concordia Church is very fortunate in having for its organist

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